

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA



June 25, 1951

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the graduate School:

Beginning in September

We're doing away with our former strict no-withdrawal policy. Instead we have a progressive plan for refunding fees. A student wishing to withdraw from a course during the first two weeks will be refunded tuition fees less a \$5 registration fee per course. If he withdraws the third or fourth week he will get back 60 percent of his tuition fees. Forty percent of the tuition will be refunded to students who withdraw during the fifth or sixth weeks. There will be no refunds after the sixth week. The plan will work the same in the summer except we will use one-week intervals up to 3 weeks to determine the refunds.

We're cutting down on class time. One credit classes will meet for 50 minutes, 2 credit classes for 1 hour and 50 minutes, 3 credit classes for 2 hours and 30 minutes, and 4 hour courses will meet in 2 sessions of 1 hour and 50 minutes each.

To enable more students to eat at the cafeteria, we are scheduling the classes to begin at 6:10 p.m., rather than 6:00 p.m. Exception will be made in scheduling classes later for instructors who will not find it convenient to meet classes at 6:10 p.m.

"Thirty frames with hot press titles"

That's how those of us who have been working with it describe the film strip now in the making on GS activities. Gives you an idea of how we have compressed the vast amount of information we had available to tell the GS story briefly. The 30 frames will include 27 pictures. The hot press title on each of the pictures has been boiled down to not more than 20 words. Marguerite Gilstrap (BPISAE) wrote the script and George Pace (Ext) is handling the photography. In planning the script we've had the able assistance of the Committee on Information -- Clara Ackerman, Chairman, (Ext), E. R. McIntyre (Inf), and Wayne Dexter (BAE). We need your suggestions on how to make the best use of the film strip. Please pass them along to members of the committee or to me.

Grounds for recruitment

is how GS has often been described. Latest testimony along this line comes from Myles E. Robinson, assistant director of research for the Air Transport Association of America. "I greatly enjoyed giving the work -- Commercial Air Transportation," he writes. "It was highly profitable in several respects. One of my present colleagues, G. H. Aldrich, was a student in my first class. As a result of the contact, we brought Mr. Aldrich to ATA and have found him an excellent addition to the staff."

The scheme to publish all scientific papers

as separates, recently proposed by Paul A. Woke (PHS) in SCIENCE, is substantially a restatement of the scheme proposed by John D. Bernal of Birbeck College in London in 1948, says V. W. Clapp in a recent issue of the Library of Congress newsletter. He goes on to say the idea has been taken up by others, notably Dean Berelson of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. Professor Bernal withdrew his proposal when a survey convinced him that the distribution of papers direct from publishers to individuals play such a subordinate part in the total of scientific communication as to make it unprofitable to attempt to reform it.

Commenting on a classification scheme that would enable workers to get all the material in which they are interested and which would protect them from all the rest, Dr. Clapp asks would it forward science. "It may well be hazarded -- at least until such a study is made -- that is it is the haphazard reading of scientists in fields not really their own which really fecundates science."

Dr. Clapp points out that the U. S. Government is now engaged in a tremendous operation of publishing scientific papers through separates which would provide a magnificent testing ground for the scheme.

Columbia University's workshop

in management research in libraries this summer will be directed by Ralph R. Shaw. An announcement points out that "Shaw has a notable record of contributions to library management. He taught in this field in the Graduate School of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He knows the subject and is a stimulating teacher. A period spent studying with him will contribute to the outlook and competence of any administrator." The workshop will be held July 16 through August 3 and carries two points of graduate credit in the School of Library Service.

"The Inter-American Way of Life,"

a 46-page pamphlet published by the Pan-American Union, is made up of selections and writings of Alberto Lleras, secretary general of the Organization of American States. I like this:

"The empire was the typical form of international life in the past. It was the systematic exploitation, in varying degrees of severity, of underdeveloped states by a metropolitan power. We have accepted as a matter of course the principle that is involved in harmless Point IV. But it is potent enough to have demolished any empire, if not with the speed at least with the efficiency of the atomic bomb. Essentially it is the concept that the more advanced nations have the moral obligation -- quite consistent with their political and economic interests -- to share their progress with the rest and to assist in their development."

The cafeteria

in the fifth wing, sixth floor, was closed for evening meals at the end of the school term, May 18.

"Trigger forces"

was a descriptive term that caught my ear in the talk by Robert D. Calkins, director of the General Education Board, at the final meeting of the Point IV seminar. He referred to motivations that can be used to help people in their efforts to develop their resources and their human capacities for their own benefit.

Those of you familiar with the work of the General Education Board in the South are aware of the effective "trigger forces" that have been used to bring improvements.

To illustrate, Dr. Calkins recalled that in 1906 the Board provided funds for the demonstration farm work then being inaugurated by Seaman Knapp. USDA funds were available for the work in boll weevil infested areas. The Board put up the money for farms in areas where the weevil had not yet become a problem. These demonstration farms were the beginning of our present agricultural Extension Service.

On the basis of his experience with the Board, Dr. Calkins made 10 recommendations of great value to those of us who will be working in the Point IV program. I recommend that you read them in full. You can get a copy of the talk from Douglas Engminger, OFAR.

If an agency house organ

is your responsibility, you may be interested in "Service for Employee Publications," a monthly magazine published by the National Association of Manufacturers. Editor Dick Bennett and his staff use articles from employee publications to illustrate fresh and effective treatment of subjects that may cover plant operations, policies, or products. Along with each article are comments on techniques of presentation that made this one outstanding. We'll be glad to route to you the copy that comes to GS.

Defense needs in training

are high on the agenda of the first USDA National conference for training officers, June 25-29. Other objectives of the conference are to decide the best ways training can assist in making better use of personnel; to recommend needed policies and plans for study at the USDA Fifth Biennial meeting of personnel offices and administrators; and to give each training officer assistance in how to do his job.

GS was represented

at the inauguration of Omer Clyde Aderhold as president of the University of Georgia by D. L. Floyd, agricultural statistician of BAE with headquarters at Athens, Georgia. Mr. Floyd writes that he was especially pleased to participate in the ceremonies for he and Dr. Aderhold were college mates nearly 30 years ago.

No dearth of problems

but rather a lack of research personnel and resources confronts the Committee on Aging and Geriatrics. At a recent meeting the group devoted considerable time discussing how research proposals might be implemented.

ABOUT OURSELVES

C. V. Bowen, BEPQ, who has taught chemistry in GS for the past 13 years, has been transferred to Florida.

Two long-time GS friends are leaving the Department. Edward I. Kotok, whose most recent contribution was in helping organize and conduct the seminar on "Policy Problems in Resource Utilization, Development, and Conservation," retired from Forest Service, June 1. He has joined FAO to head the Chilean mission on forestry, agriculture, and fisheries. His headquarters are in Santiago, Chile. Max A. McCall, assistant Chief BPISAE, retires June 30 after 36 years of service. Our good wishes go with Dr. Kotok and Dr. McCall.

We're pleased to announce the promotion of Ruth O. Carlock from office manager to administrative officer. Mrs. Carlock, who came to Washington with the WPB, transferred to GS in 1944. She is a native of Illinois, and a former teacher in the Illinois Commercial College of Champaign, Illinois.

Elsa O. Keiles, chairman of the Department of Physical Sciences, has left USDA to take a challenging assignment with Public Health Service. She is in the Division of Research Grants, National Institutes of Health. The Vitamin A Research Unit (BINHE) under her leadership was presented with a distinguished service award at the honor awards ceremony held at Beltsville, June 5.

* * *

Faculty reductions

are planned in 488 colleges and universities for the coming year, according to a survey reported in HIGHER EDUCATION recently. The returns from 1,374 institutions queried show that: planned reductions are greatest in liberal arts colleges (53.2 percent) and universities (44.8 percent). Heaviest reductions are in the field of English with modern languages next. Lightest are in classical languages and in medicine. Of the 3,385 faculty members whose jobs will not be filled next year, 41 are in agriculture.

New names on our committees

roster include: Earl R. Glover, PMA, to succeed Roy W. Lennartson on the committee for internship cooperation; I. Thomas McKillop, REA, as chairman of the new committee on general administration in the Department of Public Administration; and Joseph P. Loftus, B&F, on the committee on organization and methods analysis.

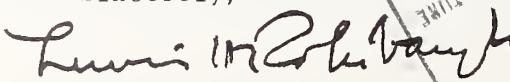
We practice what we preach

A survey for the year just completed shows that 44 of us - teachers and committee members -- were enrolled as students in GS courses.

"One of the finest

publications I have seen," is how Aura Lee Ageton, training technician with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, describes our NEWSLETTER. We take a bow.

Sincerely,



Director

